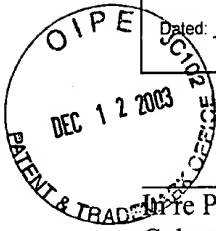


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EJ624590657US, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 12/12/03 Signature: Linda Blake  
(Linda Blake)

Docket No.: JJJ-P01-515  
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inter Patent Application of:  
Cohen et al.

Application No.: 08/851628

Art Unit: 1647

Filed: May 6, 1997

Examiner: D. Romeo

For: NOVEL THERAPIES FOR CHRONIC RENAL  
FAILURE

December 12, 2003

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO AUGUST 25, 2003 FINAL ACTION**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Communication is being filed in reply to the outstanding final Office Action, mailed August 25, 2003, in connection with the above application. The office action provides a period of three month for filing a response. Therefore, a response was due November 25, 2003. Applicants are concurrently petitioning for a one-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for filing a response to December 25, 2003. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed within the one-month extended deadline.